

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace paragraphs [0009] and [0013] with the following:

[0009] The parallel arrangement of two radiant tubes in a housing with associated reflector parts or sections, preferably parts or sections of a common reflector, results in optimum irradiation of printing material at respective predetermined distances of the radiant tubes from the passing sheet material. In a preferred embodiment, the parabolic shaped reflector sections of the common reflector define closed bottom joint intermediate walls between adjacent radiant tubes that extend below the upper periphery of the radiant tubes, but not below a lower periphery thereof, and the reflector sections at upstream and downstream ends each have an end wall that extends to a level below the level of radiant tubes and faces in respective downstream and upstream directions. The parabolic shaped reflector sections also have central axes 4A, 5B that are inclined at an acute angle α to each other such that the parabolic shaped reflector sections open in a direction toward each other. It will be understood by one skilled in the art that the geometry of the reflection mirrors may be calculated in accordance with the distance of the radiant tubes relative to the sheet material. The appropriate parameters in this regard include the mirror shape, the position and orientation of the radiant tubes in relation to the mirror, and the angle of inclination of the mirror elements in relation to one another.

[0013] In carrying out the invention, each radiant tube 2,3 has a respective reflector section 4,5 disposed in closely spaced adjacent relation to the tube. The arrangement and spacing of the reflector tubes as well as the spacing and configuration of the reflector sections 4,5, are calculated and configured such as to direct the required radiation intensity on passing sheet material for the particular distance of the radiant tubes from the sheet material. The reflector sections preferably are parabolic in shape and are part of a common reflector. In the preferred embodiment, parabolic shaped reflector sections 4,5 of the common reflector define a closed bottom joint intermediate wall 6 between adjacent radiant tubes 2,3, that extend below the upper periphery of the radiant tubes 2,3, but not below a lower periphery thereof, and the reflector section 5 at the upstream end of the radiant heater defines an end wall 8 that extends to a level below the level of the radiant tubes 2,3 and faces in an upstream direction. The reflector section 4 at the downstream end of the radiant heater defines an end wall 9 that also extends to a level below the level of the radiant tubes 2,3, and faces in an upstream direction. The parabolic shaped reflector sections 4,5 in this case have central axes 4A, 5B respectively, relative to their respective parabolic configurations that are inclined at an acute angle 2 to each other such that the parabolic shaped reflector section 4,5 open in a downward

direction toward each other for optimum direction of irradiation onto passing printed sheet material. While the illustrated embodiment has two radiant tubes 2,3 with respective reflector sections 4,5, and it will be understood that greater numbers of radiant tubes can be provided.